

James: Faith/Works Pt. 3

July 25, 2021

## Fighting Favoritism

*James 2:1-13 (NIV)*

### 1. James' Message is About DIRECTION, not PERFECTION

My dear brothers and sisters,<sup>[a]</sup> how can you claim to have faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ if you favor some people over others?

<sup>2</sup>For example, suppose someone comes into your meeting dressed in fancy clothes and expensive jewelry, and another comes in who is poor and dressed in dirty clothes. <sup>3</sup>If you give special attention and a good seat to the rich person, but you say to the poor one, "You can stand over there, or else sit on the floor"—well, <sup>4</sup>doesn't this discrimination show that your judgments are guided by evil motives?

### 2. Faith and Favoritism are INCOMPATIBLE

<sup>5</sup>Listen to me, dear brothers and sisters. Hasn't God chosen the poor in this world to be rich in faith? Aren't they the ones who will inherit the Kingdom he promised to those who love him? <sup>6</sup>But you dishonor the poor! Isn't it the rich who oppress you and drag you into court? <sup>7</sup>Aren't they the ones who slander Jesus Christ, whose noble name you bear?

<sup>8</sup>Yes indeed, it is good when you obey the royal law as found in the Scriptures: "Love your neighbor as yourself." <sup>9</sup>But if you favor some people over others, you are committing a sin. You are guilty of breaking the law.

<sup>10</sup>For the person who keeps all of the laws except one is as guilty as a person who has broken all of God's laws. <sup>11</sup>For the same God who said, "You must not commit adultery," also said, "You must not murder." So if you murder someone but do not commit adultery, you have still broken the law.

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| <p><b>The Church was intended to be a church without walls</b></p> |
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### 3. Be Careful to Not Let Your PREFERENCES Become Your PREJUDICES

<sup>12</sup>So whatever you say or whatever you do, remember that you will be judged by the law that sets you free. <sup>13</sup>There will be no mercy for those who have not shown mercy to others. But if you have been merciful, God will be merciful when he judges you.

### Four Ways to Fight Favoritism:

1. Value People
2. Accept People
3. Forgive People
4. Get Close to People

